

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (new) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and said method including the following steps of:

reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;

sending the read license parameters to the licensor;

restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;

returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee; and

storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee.

Claim 12 (new) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the authorization code is stored in a device-specific format in the data-processing device.

Claim 13 (new) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

Claim 14 (new) The method according to Claim 11, further including the steps of:

receiving the license parameters at the licensor;
evaluating the license parameters; and
deciding whether the requested authorization code should be restored and returned to the licensee.

Claim 15 (new) The method according to Claim 11, further including the steps of:

sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
evaluating the time information by the licensor; and
generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

Claim 16 (new) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

Claim 17 (new) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that remote data connections are established to all licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

Claim 18 (new) The method according to Claim 11, further including the steps of:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;

sending the security file to the management computer; and establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

Claim 19 (new) The method according to Claim 18, including the step of:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

Claim 20 (new) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method includes the steps of:

reading the serial number from the security file;
sending the serial number to a management computer; and
storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

Claim 21 (new) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and said method including the following steps of:

reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;
sending the read license parameters to the licensor;
restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;
returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee;

storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee in a device-specific format in the data-processing device; receiving the license parameters at the licensor; evaluating the license parameters; and deciding whether the requested authorization code should be restored and returned to the licensee.

Claim 22 (new) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

Claim 23 (new) The method according to Claim 21, further including the steps of:

sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor; evaluating the time information by the licensor; and generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

Claim 24 (new) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

Claim 25 (new) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that remote data connections are established to all licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

Claim 26 (new) The method according to Claim 21, further including the steps of:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;

sending the security file to the management computer; and

establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

Claim 27 (new) The method according to Claim 26, including the step of:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

Claim 28 (new) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method includes the steps of:

reading the serial number from the security file;

sending the serial number to a management computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

Claim 29 (new) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee and includes an unmodifiable serial number of the data processing device, and said method including the following steps of:

reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;

sending the read license parameters to the licensor;
restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;
returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee;
storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee;
establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a management computer;
sending the security file to the management computer;
establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer;
reading the serial number from the security file;
sending the serial number to the management computer; and
storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

Claim 30 (new) The method according to Claim 29, further including the steps of:

sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
evaluating the time information by the licensor; and
generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.